

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A system for identifying a person, comprising:

means for detecting a pressure distribution pattern which represents a distribution of pressure per unit area exerted by at least one foot of the person on a surface, wherein the means for detecting comprises a means for producing an image signal representing the distribution of pressure including changes in pressure per unit area, wherein the image signal representing the distribution of pressure including the changes in pressure per unit area is only produced for an area where the at least one foot is in contact with the surface,

means for storing data for each of a plurality of persons, said data comprising a detected pressure distribution image pattern of the distribution of pressure per unit area and an associated person identification code, and

means for comparing a detected pressure distribution image

pattern with stored pressure distribution image patterns to find a stored pressure distribution image pattern, if any, that matches the detected pressure distribution image pattern.

2. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the detecting means comprises a matrix sensor.

3. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1 wherein said surface comprises a pressure detector layer.

4. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the detecting means comprises a matrix of electrical contacts, with a rubber having a pressure-dependent conductivity placed between the contacts.

5. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the means for storing data comprises a processor having a storage medium.

6. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 5, wherein the processor further comprises a comparator for comparing a

detected pressure distribution image pattern with the stored pressure distribution image patterns.

7. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the system is implemented with a weighing device for identifying a user of the weighing device.

8. (Currently amended) A method of identifying a person, wherein said method comprises the acts of:

detecting a pressure distribution image pattern of pressures, which represents a distribution of pressure including changes in pressure per unit area exerted by at least one foot of the person on a surface, wherein the image signal representing the distribution of pressure including the changes in pressure per unit area is only produced for an area where the at least one foot is in contact with the surface,

storing data for each of a plurality of persons, said data comprising a detected pressure distribution image pattern and an associated person identification code, and

comparing a detected pressure distribution image pattern with stored pressure distribution image patterns to find a stored

pressure distribution image pattern, if any, that matches the detected pressure distribution image pattern.

9. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said method is implemented to identify a user of a weighing device.

10-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the method further comprises identifying a user of a weighing device.

17. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising an act of identifying the person according to a person identification code associated with a stored pressure distribution image pattern that is found to match the detected pressure distribution image pattern of the person.

18. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising an act of determining a weight of the person based on the detected pressure distribution image pattern of the

person.

19. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising means for identifying the person according to a person identification code associated with a stored pressure distribution image pattern that is found to match the detected pressure distribution image pattern of the person.

20. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising means for determining a weight of the person based on the detected pressure distribution image pattern of the person.

21. (Currently amended) ~~The A system according to claim 1 for identifying a person, comprising:~~

means for detecting a pressure distribution pattern which represents a distribution of pressure per unit area exerted by at least one foot of the person on a surface, wherein the means for detecting comprises a means for producing an image signal representing the distribution of pressure per unit area,

means for storing data for each of a plurality of persons,

said data comprising a detected pressure distribution image pattern of the distribution of pressure per unit area and an associated person identification code, and

means for comparing a detected pressure distribution image pattern with stored pressure distribution image patterns to find a stored pressure distribution image pattern, if any, that matches the detected pressure distribution image pattern, wherein the means for comparing comprises a means for minimizing differences between the detected pressure distribution image pattern as compared with each one of the stored pressure distribution image patterns.

22. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 21, wherein the means for minimizing is configured to produce vectors representing the difference between the detected pressure distribution image pattern as compared with each one of the stored pressure distribution image patterns.

23. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 22, wherein the means for minimizing differences minimizes a size of each vector corresponding to each comparison and wherein the size of each vector is utilized to determine if there is a match.

24. (Currently amended) ~~The A method as claimed in claim 8 of~~  
identifying a person, the method comprising acts of:

detecting a pressure distribution image pattern of pressures,  
which represents a distribution of pressure per unit area exerted  
by at least one foot of the person on a surface,

storing data for each of a plurality of persons, said data  
comprising a detected pressure distribution image pattern and an  
associated person identification code, and

comparing a detected pressure distribution image pattern with  
stored pressure distribution image patterns to find a stored  
pressure distribution image pattern, if any, that matches the  
detected pressure distribution image pattern, wherein the act of  
comparing comprises an act of minimizing differences between the  
detected pressure distribution image pattern as compared with each  
one of the stored pressure distribution image patterns.

25. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 24,  
wherein the act of minimizing comprises an act of producing vectors  
representing the difference between the detected pressure  
distribution image pattern as compared with each one of the stored

pressure distribution image patterns.

26. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the act of minimizing differences minimizes a size of each vector corresponding to each comparison and wherein the size of each vector is utilized to determine if there is a match.